

THE DISTRICT OF SAANICH, B. C.

THE LAND WHICH IS CALLED "FAIR"

THE Municipal District of Saanich lies to the north of the City of Victoria, occupying part of a large and unusually fertile and beautiful peninsula. It is far from being thickly settled, although it can exhibit some excellent and well-maintained farms and small holdings and some lovely homes. By reason of its many improvements it offers residents all of the freedom and opportunity of the country, together with practically all of the customary city advantages. Semi-rural is the term that best describes the character of the southerly portion of the Peninsula.

Saanich, because of its large extent and undulating nature, its excellent roads and many miles of charming waterfrontage, the unrivalled splendour of the views to be obtained from its many vantage points, and its ever-kind and desirable climate, has always been popular with visitors and tourists.

Give the average man a climate which approximates the ideal as closely as will be found anywhere, and a bit of fertile land to enlist his interest without enslaving him and he will tell you that he is content. Offer him such a combination plus the charms of inspiring scenery and municipal advantages and, ten chances to one, he will declare you are joking. And yet just such complete happiness is being found by more and more people each year on the lovely Saanich Peninsula, lying at the door of Victoria, capital city of British Columbia, Canada.

Productive Soil

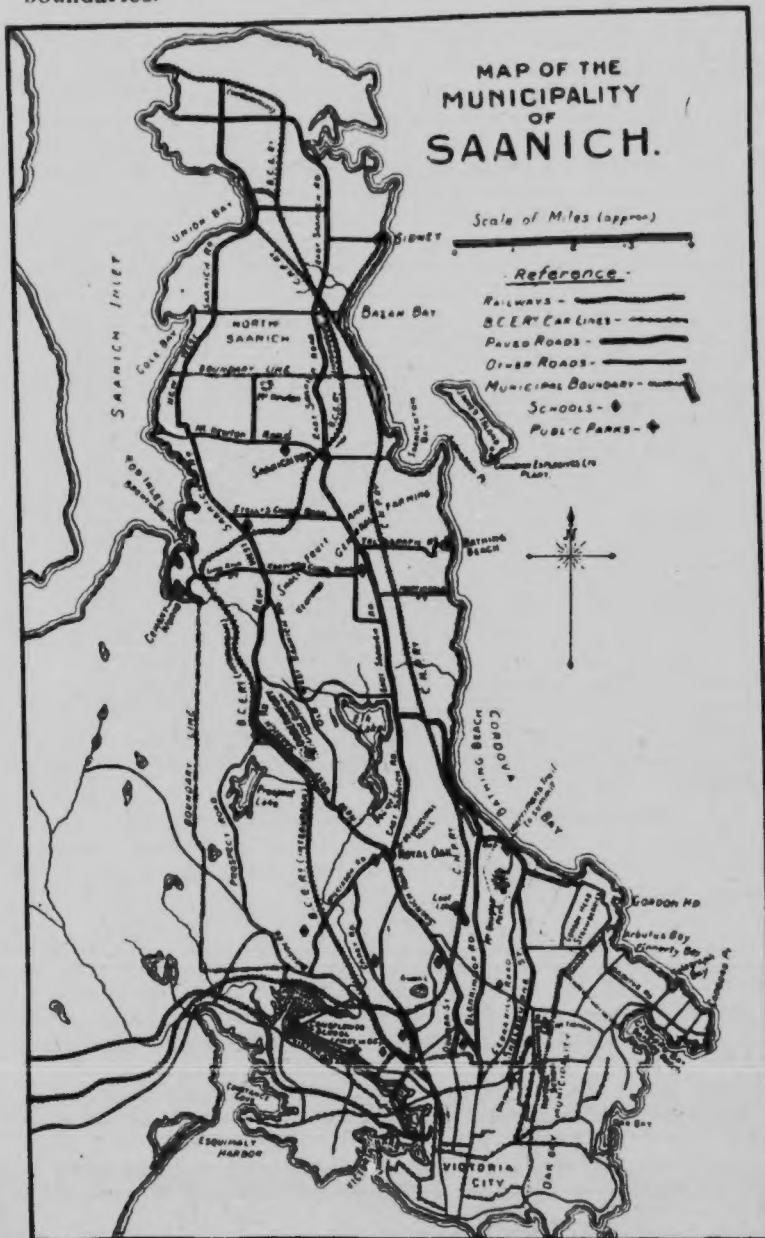
Saanich soil is very productive and the different localities offer sufficient variety to take care of almost any crop. The northerly portion of the district is occupied, chiefly, in mixed farming; the central portion is semi-rural in character and the southerly portion is characteristically suburban. Thus, the farmers, operating ranches for business purposes, are within easy reach of the city's market with their motors and the retired man or suburban business man has ready access to the Capital.

Fruit growing is rapidly achieving remarkable proportions in Saanich and, indeed, the magnificent strawberries of the Gordon Head and Keating districts of Saanich are already famous. The demand for these berries always by far exceeds the supply and growers have made handsome profits from year to year from this crop alone.

Small fruits of all kinds thrive in Saanich and so do almost all varieties of legumes. Seed growing is gradually being developed with excellent results, it having been demonstrated that Saanich-grown seed has no superiors when properly cared for and harvested. For instance, one Saanich grower at his first attempt harvested fifty pounds of first-grade onion seed from a patch 100 feet by 24 feet, and on a patch of similar size between 400 and 500 pounds of first-grade mangel seed.

Transportation Facilities

Saanich is well served with means of transportation. In the Municipal District of which we are treating there are upwards of one hundred miles of fine roads, of which not less than one-quarter are **finished with asphaltic, hard-surface pavements**, affording the best of facilities for travel by horse, motor or bicycle. Two separate lines of railroad, viz.: The Canadian National Railways and the B.C. Electric Interurban Line, operate throughout the entire length of the municipality, and no less than four of the Victoria street car lines terminate either within or at its boundaries.



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FRUIT GROWING

In the Hinterland of VICTORIA

Province of British Columbia

PRACTICALLY part of every district of Vancouver Island is adapted for fruit-growing, but on the southern end, in the Saanich District, near Victoria, the finest strawberries and loganberries in the world are produced. There are no strawberries to be found anywhere to match them in flavor, in color and in keeping qualities. The market for this fruit is increasing each year. We have never been able to supply one-fifth of the demand. As the Prairie Provinces grow in population and wealth, the demand from this section alone increases enormously. Ontario is also making a bid for our strawberries, and some of the Eastern States as well. The Prairie markets largely supplied at present from certain districts of the United States can be dominated by Vancouver Island grown berries through increased production, and an extensive market is assured at good prices.

There is also a large demand for loganberries, a fruit which has only come into its own during the past few years, and which is, according to recent investigations, not a hybrid, as was supposed, but a variety of the Pacific Coast form of trailing blackberry, and delicious in every form, fresh and preserved, and making an excellent and tonic non-fermented wine or juice beverage.

Sweet cherries are in good demand, dark varieties being preferred. Early plums have always paid a remunerative price, and the same is true in most cases of late plums and prunes. The demand for pears has been fairly good, and shows evidence of increasing. Currants, black, red and white, gooseberries, and raspberries are all good crops, and net remunerative returns.

Rhubarb and Early Vegetables could be added to the products that are now imported from the United States. The local prairie Rhubarb does not come in until after June 1st.

Asparagus, Spinach, Hothouse Lettuce, Tomatoes and Cucumbers could be shipped with them, and in ordinary years old Potatoes and later new ones.

The foregoing fruits and vegetables should be grown on a large scale like our strawberries, and in communities where car-lot shipment would be possible, they would find ready sale. We suffer from individual efforts which overdo the local markets but lose their surpluses because of insufficiency for Prairie shipment. Specializing on the Prairie market and growing what it needs in large quantities would soon become a recognized factor in the supply of that market. The list given here would scarcely meet with any competition from Canadian points.

In setting out a small fruit plantation it is well to take into consideration several important points:—

- (1) Proximity to transportation lines, markets, and canning and jam factories.
- (2) Sufficient labor available at harvesting time, and for proper care of plantation.
- (3) Type of soil.

STRAWBERRIES

The best soil for strawberries is a sandy loam with a clay subsoil, well drained, and with a southern slope or exposure. When the soil is light, it is advisable to grow and plough under a green crop, preferably of a leguminous nature, as clover, vetches, peas, before planting. Barnyard manure is an excellent fertilizer, in the ratio of 3 to 5 tons per acre. Fall ploughing to a good depth is advisable, as the winter rains prevalent throughout this section counteract the effects of a dry spring and summer. Cultivate the ground well as soon as dry enough to work it in the spring. A good soil mulch should be kept on the ground until plants are set.



Cherries have a good local and export market.

Propagation

Plants are obtained from runners from first-year plants, it being best to use only the first two plants from a runner in order to insure strong healthy growth. To get the best results, watch your plants through the bearing season, and cut runners from the heaviest producers.

Planting

Planting can be done either in the spring or fall. Spring planting is recommended, though fall planting is successfully practised. The Hill system has been almost universally adopted on Vancouver Island.

The plants are usually placed 18 inches apart in the row, with the rows 3 feet apart. No runners are allowed to form on the commercial plantation.

By the Hill system it has been found that a better berry can be produced, the patch is more easily kept clean, and more moisture retained than by any other system used at present.

Some of the chief points to bear in mind in planting are:—

- (1) Plant only in straight rows.
- (2) Keep the plants fresh from the time of cutting until they are set in the new patch.
- (3) Use only good, strong plants.
- (4) It is advisable to remove the largest leaves on the plant, leaving only the smaller ones. Trim off any black or diseased roots, and if the root system is very large it is better to shorten it.
- (5) Pack the soil firmly around the roots, and make sure that the crown of the plant is level with the surface of the ground. Do not cover the plant or leave any roots exposed.

Cultivation

Cultivation should begin at once and continue until late autumn. Do not cultivate the young patch more than 2 or 3 inches deep. All blossoms must be kept off the first year. It has not been found necessary on South Vancouver Island to protect the plants throughout the winter and cultivation is continued in the spring until plants are at the blossoming stage. Clean straw is then placed under and around each plant to protect the fruit from the soil.

Strawberries begin to ripen in mid-June, and the picking lasts approximately six weeks. During the early weeks the fruit is packed entirely in boxes, as it is then larger and firmer, and used in the fresh state. The later berries are smaller as a rule, and are picked chiefly for jam purposes, although there are many factories which take the whole season's output for jam-making.

When the berries have been gathered, the plants require to be trimmed. Dead leaves should be cut off and straw taken away. When the third season's picking is over, the strawberry field is uprooted, ploughed under or burned over, and peas, clover or some other leguminous crop planted. The next fall the same sort of seed is sown, and the following summer this crop should be ploughed under, and acts as fertilizer, adding humous to the soil, when the field is again ready for berries.

Many growers, when they plant their strawberries, set out fruit trees between the rows—cherries, prunes, plums or apples—which should be from twenty-five to thirty feet apart, though some orchardists prefer to plant more closely. In regard to this point much depends of course, on the variety of trees. At the end of the third year, when the strawberries must be rooted out, the young fruit trees are coming into bearing. The growth of the trees is in no way interfered with by the berries, nor are the trees detrimental to berry production.

The fruit-growers of South Vancouver Island have demonstrated that cultivation of strawberries takes the place of irrigation, for their berries are never watered, what rainfall there is having been found sufficient.

On the other hand, demonstrations have been made with irrigation, particularly overhead irrigation, which has brought about wonderful results, ever-bearing strawberries being ready for market in May and producing a continual crop until the late autumn. Opinions differ as to whether fruit of this nature is so well adapted for shipping as that grown without irrigation.

The varieties most largely grown on Vancouver Island are the Magoon, the Sharpless, and the Paxton. The former has been found best for shipping purposes, but for home consumption the Sharpless and Paxton are excellent berries, very sweet and luscious, with a fine flavor, and growing to a very large size. Practically the whole Island output of strawberries this year has been placed at 20 cents per pound.

LOGANBERRIES

Loganberries are proving such a popular fruit, and do so well on Vancouver Island that we have placed them



Poultry raising as an adjunct to berry growing pays well.

next to strawberries in the list. The plant is a tender one and will not stand cold winters, hence it cannot be grown in Eastern Canada. But as zero weather is unknown on Vancouver Island, this would seem to be its natural habitat. The loganberry requires a light or heavy fertile, well-drained soil of loam or clay loam, which should contain a good supply of plant food and be retentive of moisture. A good clay subsoil is essential, and drainage is of the utmost importance, as the plant cannot stand "wet feet" during the winter months. The same preparation of land as given on strawberries is applicable here.

Propagation

Loganberries may be propagated by tip-plants, by laying and by root-cuttings. Tip-plants are secured by burying the tips of the current season's growth in the autumn about the time that growth has stopped. These

tips form roots and in the spring may be severed from the parent cane and transplanted to permanent plantation. Tip-planting is the most satisfactory of any of the three mentioned, and is therefore the one recommended.

Planting

Early spring planting before growth starts is preferable in all districts where tip-plants are used. The most suitable distance at which to set the plants should not be less than 8 x 8 feet, or more than 10 x 10 feet. Plants set 8 x 8 feet will require 680 to the acre. It is preferable to have rows running north and south to allow of an even distribution of sunlight, and as tip-plants are more tender than nursery stock of most other fruits, they should be placed in this permanent location at once, upon cutting, using a spade to set them in the manner ordinarily used for setting strawberry plants.

Cultivation

Intercrops may be grown during the first, and possibly the second year, potatoes, beans, peas and other vegetables which require intensive cultivation and are harvested early. If no intercrops are used, cultivation should be given at least once a week, with hand-cultivator, harrow, weeder or any of the well-known cultivating implements, taking care always not to disturb the root of the plant.

Training

Loganberries are trained upon a wire trellis, and either of two systems followed, the weaving or the rope system. In the former, each cane is woven separately to the wires, while in the latter the canes are divided into bundles, and the longest strapped to the top wire, the next longest to the second wire, and the shortest to the lowest wire.

Immediately the canes have finished fruiting, they should be pruned out and burned. If climatic conditions are suitable, new vines may be trained to the trellis in the fall.

There is little pruning to be done, except for the cutting out of old wood, and the removing of weak canes. From 10 to 14 healthy canes is a good average for a plant to produce each year.

The loganberry begins to ripen about the third week in June. In picking for the jam or juice factory the plot should be covered at least every fourth day, and for canning and drying every third day.

The loganberry until recently found its way to the jam factories almost entirely, but owing to the fact that more careful methods have been used in handling the fruit, it is now being shipped successfully in its fresh state to distant markets. For successful fresh shipping the vines must be picked thoroughly clean each day.

The life of the loganberry plantation on Vancouver Island, when good care is given, should be from 10 to 20 years. The yield the second year should be from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 tons per acre, third year and after from 3 to 5 tons per acre.

RASPBERRIES

For red raspberries, a deep loamy soil, well drained, and with a large moisture-holding capacity is best, though the black raspberry will thrive in a well-drained clayey soil. Prepare the ground as for strawberries, first ploughing and cultivating deeply, especially in the heavier soils.

The raspberry is a perennial and is propagated from the new growth obtained from the bearing patch. The black raspberry, or "black cap," is propagated from tips, as in the case of loganberries. Planting may be done either in the spring or the autumn, depending upon the condition of the soil as to cultivation and drainage. Usually the raspberries, both red and black, are planted in rows, 6 to 8 feet apart, and from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 feet in the rows. Before planting roots must be buried and the top cut back to 6 or 8 inches of the ground. Set the plants from 3 to 5 inches deep, according to the soil. Spread the roots and pack soil firmly about them. The "black cap"



There is a ready market for gooseberries.

tips should never be covered with more than 3 inches of soil.

Cultivation and Pruning

Cultivation is as essential to the raspberries as to the strawberries and should be continuous from spring until early fall. Plough earth up to the plants in the fall. Barnyard manure should be applied during the winter in the ratio of 5 tons to the acre, and an application of muriate of potash in the spring will greatly improve the crop.

The one-year-old wood produces the fruit and the canes should be removed when through bearing, or in the early spring following. It is better to follow the first method, as the new growth will obtain greater strength if the old canes are removed at once. Thin out the young canes in the spring to 8 or 10 in the hill, and cut back, using your own judgment, according to the growth of the plant.

HIMALAYA BLACKBERRY

This variety of the Blackberry is grown nowhere else so well as in this district, and is very prolific—some plants will bear upwards of 150 pounds of fruit in a season. Practically the same conditions apply to the growing of this fruit as for Loganberries, except that the plants should be set about 18 to 20 feet apart and 10 feet between rows, owing to their immense lateral growth. This berry is harvested after all other berry crops have been marketed.

Of the varieties of Red Raspberry, the "Cuthbert" is the favorite. It is a strong grower and very productive, having good shipping qualities. The "Herbert" and the "Marlboro" are very hardy and are fairly productive. The "Snyder," the "Taylor," the "Evergreen" are all hardy blackberries and very productive, with good shipping qualities. "Black Caps" are not extensively grown, but the principal varieties are the "Cumberland" and the "Snug."

CURRANTS AND GOOSEBERRIES

Both of these fruits require a deep, well-drained, cool soil, and they are best planted when they will have a northern exposure.

Propagation and Planting

Currants are propagated chiefly from cuttings, but tipping and mound-layering are also practised. The cuttings are made in the fall, from the one-year-old wood, and range from 8 to 10 inches in length. The base of the cutting is made with a square cut, and just below a bud. The upper cut is about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch above a bud. The cuttings should at once be transplanted to the nursery row, the rows being about 3 feet apart and the cuttings 4 to 6 inches apart in the rows.

Gooseberries are propagated either from cuttings or by mounding. Mounding is most successfully practised. Planting is done in the fall or spring, and one-year-old plants are generally used. The bushes should be in rows 6 feet apart and from 5 to 6 feet apart in the rows. Continuous cultivation from spring to fall is essential for satisfactory results.

Black currants bear most of their fruit on one-year-old wood. Red and white currants produce their fruit on spurs which grow from the wood two or more years of age. Wood over 3 years of age should be removed, as the quality of the fruit deteriorates with the age of the wood.

Gooseberries bear on one-year-old wood and on spurs. Cut away all wood over three years of age, and keep a good supply of new shoots and two-year-old wood under way.

Varieties

Black currants—Naples.

Red currants—Cherry, Fay's Prolific, Victoria.

White currants—White Grape.

Gooseberries—English varieties—Crown Bob, and Industry. American varieties—Oregon, Champion, Downing.

Successful Poultry Raising

IF there is any one branch of agriculture that can be advocated and justified as a specialized business, poultry is the branch. And this applies particularly to Vancouver Island, where the climatic conditions are peculiarly favorable. With a lower capital investment the poultry business shows a greater income return for labor expended than any other branch of agriculture.

Commencement

The way to begin is to buy a few breeding hens in the autumn and an unrelated cockerel, but be sure that this stock is from a first-class laying strain; or else hatching eggs can be bought in the spring, using broody hens or an incubator. In starting, commence slowly and gradually work up, as it is fatal to go at the business in too big a way before being master of all the intricacies of this industry.

The three essentials of success are proper equipment, good stock, and careful management.

And remember, it pays to feed well.

Market

The market for eggs and poultry in British Columbia is tremendous, and the country is growing at such a rate that the production cannot begin to keep pace with the consumption. Better prices are paid for poultry products in this Province than anywhere else in North America. With the climate and soil so well adapted to poultry farming, it is astonishing that more persons have not already taken up this industry with the prospects there are in the business.

The poultry industry is particularly well adapted as an adjunct to small fruit growing.

For Further Information Apply to
INDUSTRIAL AND PUBLICITY COMMISSIONER
Victoria & Island Development Association, Victoria, B.C.

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IN THE HINTERLAND OF THE CITY OF

VICTORIA

BRITISH COLUMBIA



Strawberry growing—Saanich district.

A BERRY AND POULTRY FARM
GOOD MARKETS
AN ASSURED INCOME

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THE VICTORIA & ISLAND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAANICH

